First Congregational
United Church of Christ

111 S. Wallace Blvd. Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(Mailing Address: P.O. Box 980413 Ypsilanti, MI 48198)
www.ypsiucc.org

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

July 2, 2023
10:00 am

Daring Disciples

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, You are welcome here!

WORSHIP ON ZOOM -- Zoom opens at 9:30 am Sunday morning.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7643282234

Meeting ID: 764 328 2234
Passcode: Ypsi1882
To join by phone, dial the number, 1-312-626-6799

- Welcome to Ypsilanti First Congregational UCC's Zoom Worship Service
- Hymns are included in the worship bulletin. A separate hymnal is not needed.
- If you are joining worship for the first-time on Zoom, please add your name and email to the chat so the Zoomie Greeter can introduce you.
- Thank you for choosing to worship with us today!

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT OF
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identifies and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions. All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe, nurturing community of faith. We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Start Zoom Recoding to Cloud **JOSHUA CATANIA**

Improvisation
Joshua Catania

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS **DONNA EYSTER**

- A warm welcome to all, including first-time visitors.
- As stated in our Open and Affirming Covenant (previous page), all persons are welcome in this community of faith.
- **Today—the first Sunday of the month--we celebrate the birthdays of folks in our faith community born in this month by singing "Happy Birthday**."
- **Patty Sherwood,** Zoom Host will introduce folks participating in worship.
- Please share your announcements so everyone can learn what is happening in our beloved ministry community.
- **This is the first Sunday of the month; we will be sharing communion during this service. Please gather your own elements. Creativity is a blessing!**
- Please submit written announcements to Margaret Harner, Worship Coordinator, margaretsharner@gmail.com, by midnight on Tuesday.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"You Are Welcome Here"
26 SING

CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsive **DONNA EYSTER**

Leader: With joy and celebration, God welcomes us.
People: How good it is to gather in God's name.
Leader: With joy and celebration, we welcome one another.
People: We greet each other by name; we are equal in God's Kin-dom.
Leader: We open our hearts to welcome God's love.
People: We open our arms to welcome God's people.

HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?"
539 NCH

LISTENING FOR GOD

FIRST READING **Matthew 10:40-42** **DONNA EYSTER**

SECOND READING **The Gospel of Mary** **REV. JEANETTE**

HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies"
594 NCH

MORNING MESSAGE **"Daring Disciples"** **REV. JEANETTE**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Pause Zoom recording **REV. JEANETTE**

*Zoomies: Please turn on your microphone

You are invited to share your joys and petitions for prayer.
Please unmute your microphone to share a joy or make a prayer of petition.
At the end of each joy or petition, please say **"God in your mercy"**
We will respond (with microphones muted) **"Hear our prayers"**

PASTORAL PRAYER *Restart Zoom recording **REV. JEANETTE**

DISCIPLES' PRAYER *Unison with Microphone muted **REV. JEANETTE**

Lift us up, Steadfast One,
From the depths of depression that keeps us from contentment,
From the despair of disillusionment that encourages us to pass judgment,
From the loneliness that keeps us from feeling friendly warmth and love,
Bring us into your presence, O God, that we may be comforted,
And then, in knowing your comfort, may we comfort others. Amen.

OFFERING

INVITATION TO OFFERING **REV. JEANETTE**

This time of giving is a sacred symbol of our intent to live as God intends.
Let us give freely as we are able.

Our electronic giving platform is Tithe.ly: Link to Tithe.ly

Checks can be mailed to:
First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERTORY **"My Country 'Tis of Thee"** **JOSHUA CATANIA**
Samuel Francis Smith

DOXOLOGY *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Take My Gifts" v 2, 562 NCH

Take the fruits that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
Harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,
Spiced with humor, laced with laughter, flavor of the Jesus life,
*Tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief***.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *Unison with Microphone muted **DONNA EYSTER**

We pray, God of generosity and love,
Even if we think what we offer is meagre,
It will be multiplied through your love,
And serve to help our neighbors at home and around the world.
Bless our giving.
Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"
337 NCH

COMMUNION SERVICE **REV. JEANETTE**

No matter who you are and where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at Christ's table!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

CLOSING HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed"
64 ES

BENEDICTION **DONNA EYSTER**

Go into this new week, ready to be surprised by God.
May God startle you out of complacency and into compassion,
Awaken you to understand all you have to give,
And amaze you with the awe-inspiring scope of God's care
For you and for this world. Amen.

POSTLUDE **"Shenandoah"** **JOSHUA CATANIA**
Folk Song

PASSING THE PEACE ***Stop Zoom Recording (square button) **FRIENDS GATHERED**

***Save Zoom Recording to Cloud (click "yes")

- Share a greeting with others as we transition to our casual **Friendship Time**

Zoom Only Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Rev. Jeanette Sherrill, Bringing the Message
Tiffanie Waldron, Music Director
Joshua Catania, Accompanist
Jenn Zibbell, MID Ministry Intern
Donna Eyster, Liturgist

YPSILANTI FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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ATTRIBUTIONS FOR TODAY'S BULLETIN

- **Cover Art:** DDP in *Unsplash*
- **Call to Worship,** Thom Shuman in *Playing Hopscotch in Heaven* (adapted)
- **Disciples Prayer:** Judy Sears in *gatheringworship.ca* (adapted)
- **Prayer of Dedication:** George Allen in *gatheringworship.ca* (adapted)
- **Communion Liturgy:** Claudio Carvalhaes in *Liturgies from Below,* Abington Press (2020)
- **Benediction:** Gill LeFevre in *gathingworship.ca*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For pastoral care needs and/or emergencies, please call or text Donna Eyster, 734-780-5857.

Rev. Jeanette Sherrill brought the message this morning. Jeanette received her D.Min. from Hartford Seminary (now Hartford University) In addition to pastoring local churches, she also served as an Assoc. Conference Minister in the NY UCC Conference, and helped congregations transition to new paths. Thank you, Jeanette, for sharing your faith, love, and leadership as part of our faith community.

NEXT SUNDAY, July 9 at 9:15, BEFORE WORSHIP,we will ALL gather for a Zoom Congregational Meeting

We will gather for the purpose of creating a list of possible paths for our future ministry. We will not discuss or evaluate each of these possibilities. No idea is too off the wall to add to the list! The list will then be sent to each of you via email to indicate if you think each option is of low, medium, or high. With our **Mission-Vision-Values** statements complete (found on our webpage), this is the next step in discerning our future path for our beloved faith community. **Rev. Jeanette** will lead this endeavor.

Worship Next Week: ***The Water Is Coming,*** Rev. Jamar Doyle, President/CEO, UCC Council for Health and Human Services (CHHSM). Opening worship from General Synod. **Zoom Host, Patty Sherwood; Liturgist, Marty Kleino**

"Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:18-19

The 34th General Synod of the United Church of Christ is meeting in Indianapolis June 30-July 4. General Synod is a gathering of delegates from every UCC conference and from affiliated groups around the globe. The delegates vote on all matters pertaining to the national church including resolutions directing public action about social justice issues, a bylaw amendment, election of new UCC General Minister and President, Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, and budget. Attendees experience wonderful creative worship services, workshops and speakers. Go online to learn more about the work happening in Indianapolis this week. https://generalsynod.org

THEME: *Making All Things New,* Isaiah 43:18-19

On the evening of June 30, the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson offered her nomination speech to the **34th General Synod** to become the next General Minister and President.

In her speech, Thompson described some of the challenges and opportunities facing the UCC as the body recently passed its 66th anniversary the Sunday before, June 25. She described the current moment as one holding the "grief lingering among us" due to the COVID pandemic, the challenges faced by communities "who live on the margins of the world" and the economic challenges that accompany the decline many mainline churches are facing in the global north.

But this place, Thompson said, is one where "hope springs forth" within the UCC.

"Here is the place where we have seen the Spirit of God poured forth among us in many ways. Here is the place where we continue to identify the many accomplishments of the ancestors. Here is where we honor the resilience of those who came before us, took risk and oftentimes did more with less than we currently have. And here is the place we identify as now, as we ponder the call of God to be salt and light to the world," she said.

She has a passion for international, interreligious collaboration and thirst for justice, especially for people of African descent, grew out of Thompson's roots.

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, she immigrated to New York City as a teenager, eventually graduating from Brooklyn College. She later obtained a Master of Public Administration from North Carolina Central University and a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in New York. She received her Doctorate in Ministry from Seattle University, **publishing her dissertation** on the multiple religious traditions practiced by African Caribbean people.

"I am the descendant of people who were brought from Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Kenya and Ghana into the Americas as enslaved people," Thompson said to the board prior to its vote. "I stand before you today because they believed and knew we are more than we were declared by those who deemed them to be less than human. I stand before you today carrying the wisdom they bore as healers, seers, spiritualists and interpreters of dreams. I am here because my parents who did not have as much as a high school education sent me to school and believed I could be more than they could be.

"She explained that her interlocking identities as a Black woman, an African descendant, a Jamaican immigrant, a poet and a public theologian all are central to Thompson's life, work and ministry.

Thompson has served in the National Setting for more than a decade. Prior to **her election as AGM in 2019**, she was Minister for Racial Justice, then Minister for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. In those positions, she helped foster "Sacred Conversations on Race," implement the **A.C.T. Now to End Racism** initiative and promote racial justice and ecumenical relations on a global scale.

Before her national service, Thompson was Minister for Disaster Response and Recovery for the **Florida Conference**. And before that, she became the first female pastor of African descent in the Conference when she was called to the new-start, 15-member New Hope UCC in DeLand, Fla.

The congregation rented space from the local synagogue," she recalled to the board. "Those 15 people were more like three to five in weekly attendance. Every Sunday, the hymnals, the large church Bible, the large wooden cross, the sound system and the keyboard were packed into the back of my car and taken to their places in the synagogue for Sunday worship."

That local church ministry, she explained, informs her work now as a UCC leader.

"I am a pastor," Thompson said. "My experience of 19 years ago is not far removed from those of our pastors today. Bi-vocational realities compete with quality of life and the ability to nurture self-care and attend adequately to the needs of family. Our small churches are still struggling along with rural churches and new churches."

On March 13, 2022,the Unit ed Church of Christ central offices relocated to smaller space in Cleveland, Rev. Thompson read her poem "from this place" during the **farewell service** for the Amistad Chapel and the Church House. The poem's final lines proclaim that, **amid a time of transition, God's people are *guided by God / who is always with us / our hopes for the future surpassing our memories of the past.***

Delegates will vote on Thompson's nomination, likely in a morning plenary session Monday, July 3.

GS sessions are available on life-stream at the UCC General Synod website.

OUR MINISTRIES

HOLY GROUNDS AND TEA FOR THE SOUL

During the Omicron (COVID) surge members of Ypsi UCC provided local coffee, tea, coffee cups, and single packaged snacks for the night shift at Trinity Health St. Joe Mercy Hospital where Rev. Dan Kidder-McQuown is the night challplain. While the COVID crisis has partially resolved, the stress level of the night staff has not. Contributing factors include the long-term emerging effects of COVID, a lack of staff, a nation-wide nurse shortage, and staff burnout. The night shift greatly appreciates this ministry of hospitality and caring.

Please consider donating coffee that is roasted by local Michigan companies. Tea and single packaged candy or snacks are also welcome. Please contact Marty Kleino at Mgkleino@gmail.com or 734-262-1419 to have your donation delivered to St. Joes. If you would like more information about this ministry, please contact Dan Kidder-McQuown at mcq188@gmail.com or 517-240-8413.

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY – WASHTENAW INTERFAITH COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS (WICIR)

Since 2008, **WICIR** has been working with, and in support of, immigrants in Washtenaw County facing challenges of many kinds. At our inception the primary need that brought us together was to support people facing enforcement action by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement); most often detention, deportation, and removal. To date, WICIR has responded to 650 calls. Always in partnership with folks most affected, many actions and services have evolved as identified by our immigrant siblings, while always keeping focused on our original mission:

To provide culturally sensitive and supportive urgent response to those in Washtenaw County in immigration-related crises; impact local governmental policies to empower and protect immigrant community members; and work toward humane national immigration reform.

Our outreach has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many in immigrant communities have experienced significant challenges as they struggle to pay rent, provide food for their families and other basic survival needs. To respond, WICIR, in partnership with Mexiquenses in Michigan (from St. Francis of Assisi Parish), has raised and distributed $200,000 relief funds to immigrants and their families. We have a waiting list of those still in need and will continue this effort as funds are available.

For information about what's happening with immigrant rights and **Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights**, or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Melanie Harner at melharner@gmail.com or through the WICIR website: https://wicir.org/. You can also find a link on the church website.

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION

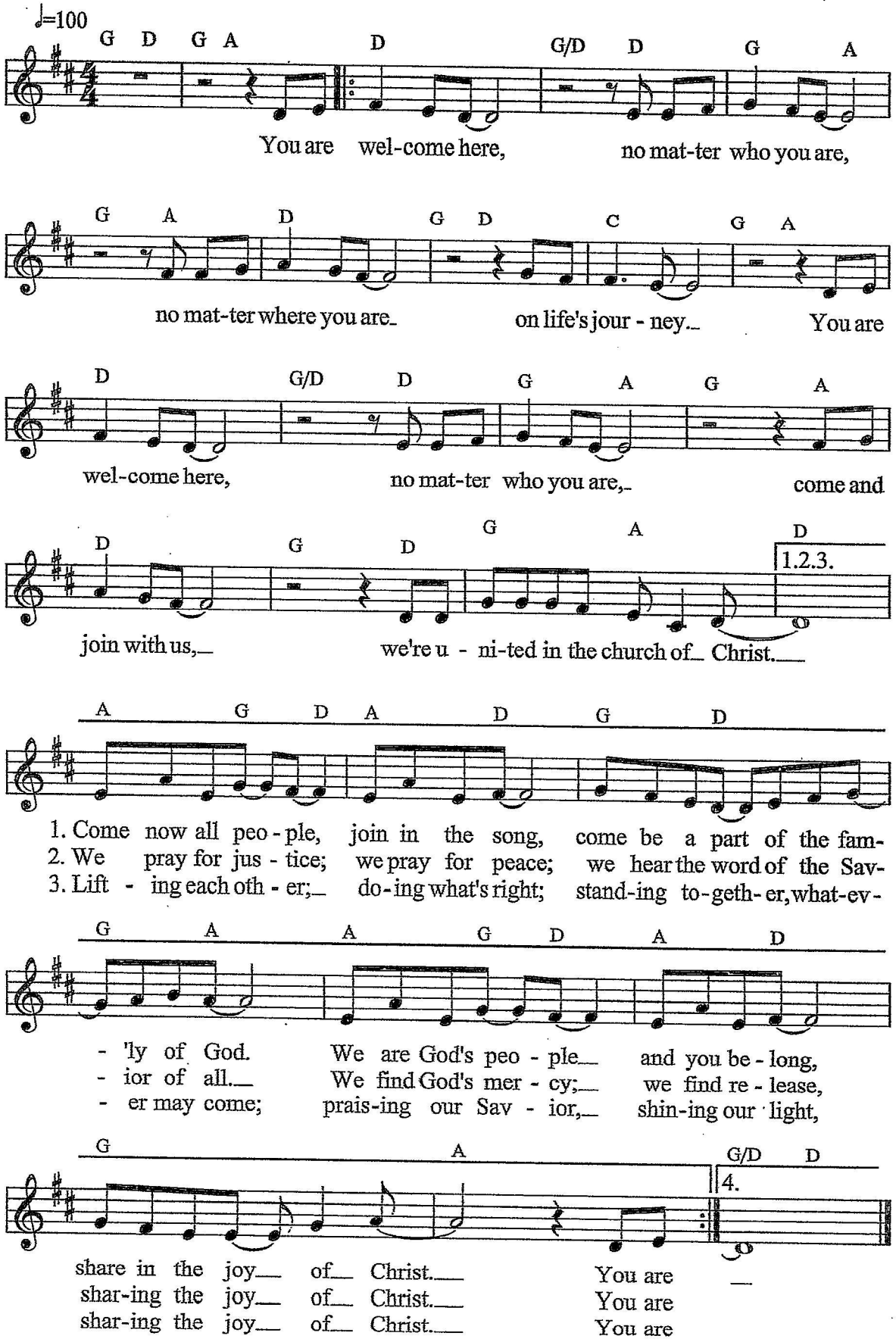
First Congregational is a founding institution of the local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition)**. In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. WeROC members are, at our core, focused on intentionally re-weaving the frayed fabric of community at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated. Especially in this time when so many are being hit by the health and economic crises, WeROC's focus on raising voices of those most affected is more important than ever (See COVID-19 Resources at www.werocmi.org) WeROC's Mission Statement is:

WeROC brings together faith, labor, community organizations, and individuals to build the healthy collective power needed to break down the systems that sustain injustice, racism, and economic inequality.

WeROC is affiliated with the Detroit Metro organization MOSES and the Gamliel National Network. Contact Tad Wysor at tadwysor@gmail.com or 734-883-3225.

This past election year showed us good things can happen when we're working together in the same direction. WeROC is moving rapidly **forward** to keep momentum going and find ways to continue to be more effective together in making our communities healthier and more vibrant places; improving the lives of *everyone* in big ways-- especially those who are most vulnerable and whose voice have seldom been heard.

You Are Welcome Here


♩=100
G D G A D G/D D G A
You are wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are,
G A D G D C G A
no mat-ter where you are_ on life's jour - ney._ You are
D G/D D G A G A
wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are,_ come and
D G D G A D
1.2.3.
join with us,_ we're u - ni-ted in the church of_ Christ.___
A G D A D G D
1. Come now all peo - ple, join in the song, come be a part of the fam-
2. We pray for jus - tice; we pray for peace; we hear the word of the Sav-
3. Lift - ing each oth - er;_ do-ing what's right; stand-ing to-geth-er, what-ev-
G A A G D A D
- 'ly of God. We are God's peo - ple___ and you be - long,
- ior of all.___ We find God's mer - cy;___ we find re - lease,
- er may come; prais-ing our Sav - ior,___ shin-ing our light,
G A G/D D
4.
share in the joy___ of___ Christ.___ You are ___
shar-ing the joy___ of___ Christ.___ You are
shar-ing the joy___ of___ Christ.___ You are

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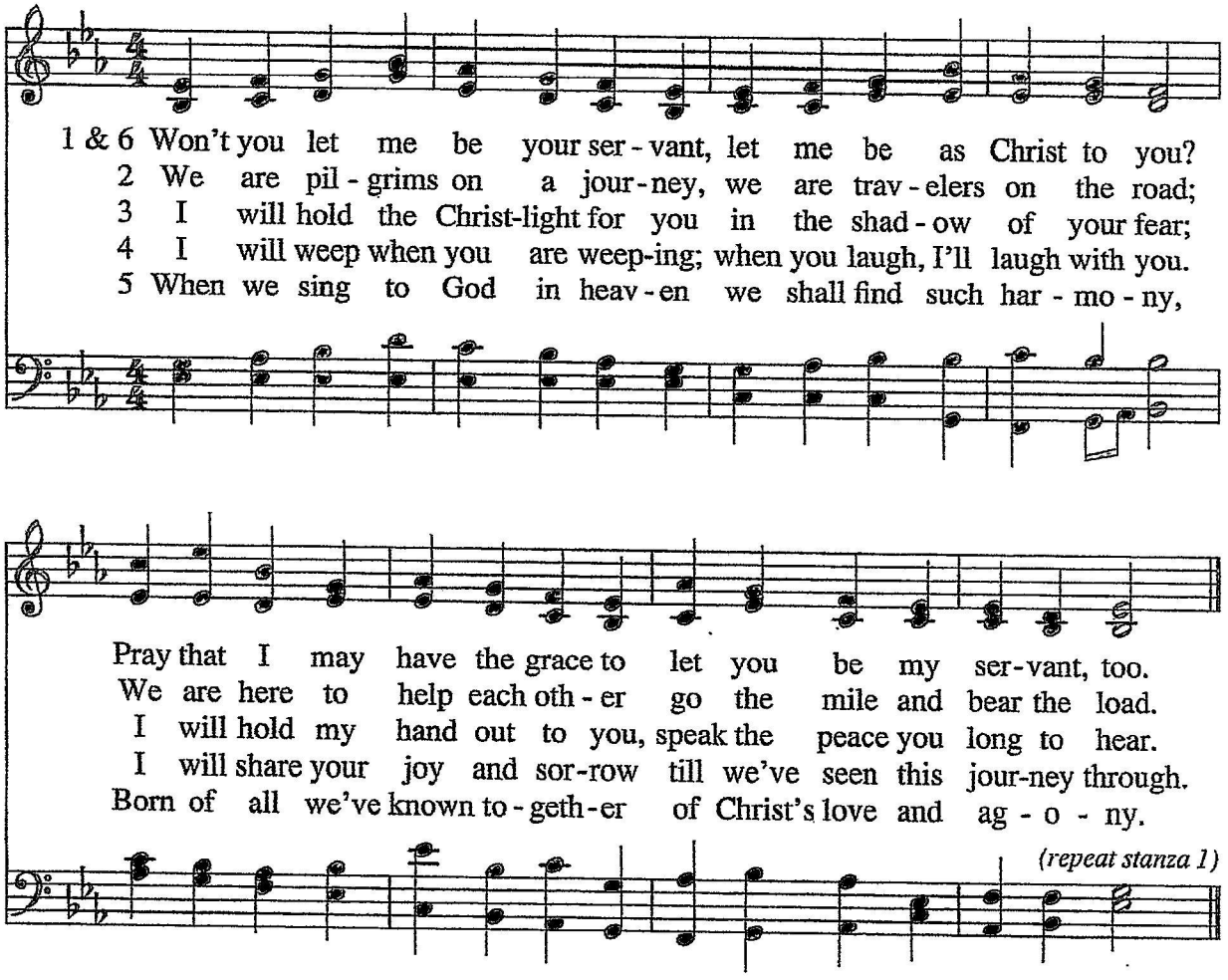
Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant? 539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9–18; Col. 1:24–29


1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;
4 I will weep when you are weep-ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour-ney through.
Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.
(repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.
Richard Gillard, 1977
Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

594 How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies

St. 1, Katharine Lee Bates, 1893; alt.
St. 2, 3, 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

1 How beau-ti-ful, our spa-cious skies, our am - ber waves of grain;
2 In - dig - e-nous and im - mi - grant, our daugh-ters and our sons:
3 How beau-ti-ful, sin - cere la - ment, the wis - dom born of tears,
4 How beau-ti-ful, two con - ti - nents, and is - lands in the sea
our pur - ple moun-tains as they rise a - bove the fruit - ful plain.
O may we nev - er rest con-tent till all are tru - ly one.
the cour-age called for to re - pent the blood-shed through the years.
that dream of peace, non - vi - o - lence, all peo - ple liv - ing free.
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God's gra - cious gifts a - bound,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God grant that we may be
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God grant that we may be
A - mer - i - cas! A - mer - i - cas! God grant that we may be
and more and more we're grate-ful for life's boun-ty all a - round.
a sis - ter - hood and broth - er - hood from sea to shin-ing sea.
a na - tion blessed with none op-pressed, true land of lib - er - ty.
a hem - i - sphere where peo - ple here all live in har - mo - ny.

On her first trip west in the summer of 1893 the distinguished New England educator Katharine Lee Bates was inspired to write "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies." One hundred years later Miriam Therese Winter wrote new stanzas to clearly include all of the Americas.

Tune: MATERNA C.M.D.
Samuel A. Ward, 1882

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

337

Percy Dearmer, 1925; alt.

Matt. 18:20

Unison

1 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -
in your name, two or three are met to - geth - er,
Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the Giv - er,
ments of you, that by car - ing, help-ing, giv - ing,
you are in the midst of them; Al-le - lu - ia!
break the bread and bless the cup, Al-le - lu - ia!
we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al-le - lu - ia!
Al-le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
Al-le - lu - ia! So now bind our friend - ship up.
Al-le - lu - ia! We may serve with faith a - new.

British hymnal editor Percy Dearmer originally wrote these stanzas under a pseudonym as part of a postcommunion hymn by George H. Bourne. The tune was adapted from an anthem by Harold Friedell and is named for Union Theological Seminary in New York.

Tune: UNION SEMINARY 8.7.8.7.4.4.7.
Harold Friedell, 1957
Adapt. Jet Turner, 1967

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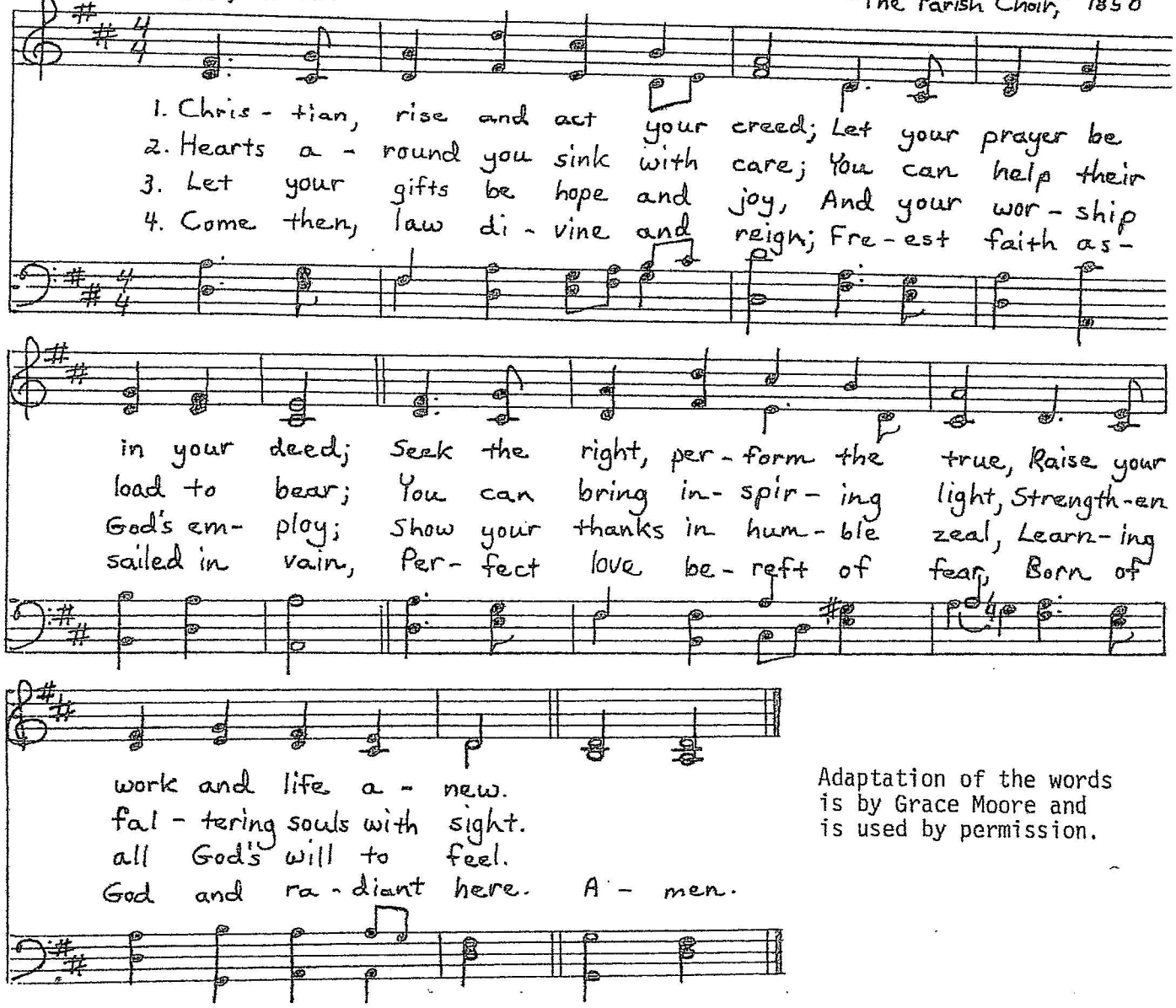
Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed

F. A. Rollo Russell, 1849 - 1914

INNOCENTS 7.7.7.7.
"The Parish Choir," 1850


1. Chris - tian, rise and act your creed; Let your prayer be
2. Hearts a - round you sink with care; You can help their
3. Let your gifts be hope and joy, And your wor - ship
4. Come then, law di - vine and reign; Fre - est faith as -
in your deed; Seek the right, per - form the true, Raise your
load to bear; You can bring in - spir - ing light, Strength-en
God's em - ploy; Show your thanks in hum - ble zeal, Learn - ing
sailed in vain, Per - fect love be - reft of fear, Born of
work and life a - new.
fal - tering souls with sight.
all God's will to feel.
God and ra - diant here. A - men.

Adaptation of the words is by Grace Moore and is used by permission.